What is claimed is :

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient (A) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:16 or a functionally equivalent variant of said amino acid sequence; or (B) a polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide (A); or (C) an antibody which is immunoreactive with the polypeptide (A); or (D) an antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of polynucleotide (B); optionally together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

2. A composition according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient is the polypeptide (A) comprising a portion having at least 50 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:16.

3. A composition according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient is the polynucleotide (B) which is cDNA comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:15, or a DNA comprising a nucleotide sequence which hybridises to SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:15 under stringent conditions.

4. A composition according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient is the polynucleotide (B) comprising a portion having at least 100 contiguous bases from SEQ ID NO:1 or SEQ ID NO:15.

5. A composition according to claim 1, in which the active ingredient is the polynucleotide (B) comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding at least 50 contiguous amino acids from SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:16.

6. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:15.

7. An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:16.

8. An antibody which is immunoreactive with a polypeptide (A) as specified in claim 1.

9. An antisense oligonucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence complementary to that of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1.

10. A polynucleotide probe comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1, or a complement thereof, labelled to provide a detectable signal.

11. A method of treating an inflammatory disease which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of a polypeptide (A) as specified in claim 1, or a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1, or an antibody (C) as specified in claim 1, or an antisense oligonucleotide (D) as specified in claim 1.

12. A method according to claim 11, in which the disease is an inflammatory or obstructive airways disease.

13. A method according to claim 12, in which the disease is asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

14. A method of detecting the presence of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1 in a cell or tissue which comprises contacting DNA from the cell or tissue with a polynucleotide probe comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of a polynucleotide (B) or a complement thereof under conditions where the probe is specifically hybridizable with a polynucleotide (B), and detecting whether hybridization occurs.

15. A method of determining whether a subject has an inflammatory disease, comprising determining, in a cell sample from the subject, the level of expression of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1, and comparing said level with the level of expression of the polynucleotide in a cell sample from a healthy subject.

16. A method of monitoring treatment of a subject having an inflammatory disease with a drug, which comprises determining the level of expression of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1, or a polypeptide (A) as specified in claim 1, or the level of an activity of said polypeptide, in a cell sample from the subject following the treatment and comparing said level with the respective level before the treatment.

17. A pair of oligonucleotides useful as primers for amplification of a fragment of a polynucleotide (B) as specified in claim 1, each oligonucleotide of said pair being at least 15

nucleotides in length and said pair having sequences such that when used in a polymerase chain reaction with human genomic DNA or a suitable human cDNA target, they result in synthesis of a DNA fragment containing part or all of the nucleotide sequence of said polynucleotide (B).

18. A method of identifying a substance suitable for use in the treatment of an inflammatory disease comprising combining a candidate substance with a polypeptide (A) as specified in claim 1 and measuring the effect of the candidate substance on the activity of said polypeptide (A).

19. A method of identifying a substance suitable for use in the treatment of an inflammatory disease which binds to a polypeptide (A) as specified in claim 1 comprising mixing a candidate substance with said polypeptide (A) and determining whether binding has occurred.